

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-9, 13, 21, 22, and 28, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An electric contact ~~point~~ member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of an image carrier, comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion ~~reciprocally movable~~ connected electrically to a side of the charger; and

a buffer portion formed between the securing portion and the moving portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein the buffer portion has an elasticity.

3. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein the buffer portion is in a ring shape.

4. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein the buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein the buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the securing portion and the moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the securing portion and the moving portion has a coil spring portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the electric contact ~~point~~ member is in a linear shape.

9. (Currently Amended) A process cartridge detachably attached to a body of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image carrier;

a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of the image carrier; and

an electric contact ~~point~~ member for applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to the charger, the electric contact ~~point~~ member comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion ~~reciprocally movable~~ connected electrically to a side of the charger; and a buffer portion formed between the securing portion and the moving portion.

10. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the charger charges a developing agent remaining on the image carrier.

11. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein the charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position for transferring a developing agent image from the image carrier to the transfer member and on an upstream side of a charging means for charging the image carrier, in the moving direction of the image carrier.

12. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the charger moves reciprocally as in contact with the image carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) The process cartridge according to claim 12, wherein the charger has a ~~brush~~ brush member in contact with the image carrier.

14. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the buffer portion has an elasticity.

15. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the buffer portion is in a ring shape.

16. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

17. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein the buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

18. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the securing portion and the moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

19. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the securing portion and the moving portion has a coil spring portion.

20. (Original) The process cartridge according to claim 11, wherein the process cartridge has a developing means for forming a developing agent image on the image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing agent on the image carrier.

21. (Currently Amended) The electric contact ~~point~~ member according to any of claims 9 to 20, wherein the electric contact ~~point~~ member is in a linear shape.

22. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier;
a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of the image carrier; and
an electric contact ~~point~~ member for applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to the charger, the electric contact ~~point~~ member comprising:
a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;
a reciprocally movable moving portion ~~reciprocally movable~~ connected electrically to a side of the charger; and
a buffer portion formed between the securing portion and the moving portion.

23. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position for transferring a developing agent image from the image carrier to the transfer member and on an upstream side of a charging means for charging the image carrier, in the moving direction of the image carrier and charges a developing agent remaining on the image carrier, wherein the apparatus has a developing means for forming a developing agent image on the image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing agent on the image carrier.

24. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the buffer has an elasticity.